

TOP OF THE HILL

Volume 3, Number 2

MBA Junior School

February 1998

The Mixer: Crossing Over

by: Col. Deke Shearon

Every once in awhile, the MBA and Harpeth Hall bigwigs get together and decide to make us come to a specific place and embarrass ourselves in front of the opposite sex. Last Friday, one of those so-called "mixers"

(I guess we are just too young for it to just be called a dance) took place. This time, MBA was the visiting team, as the mixer was at Harpeth Hall. Once arriving at the mixer, one can notice what I like to call the Three Stages of a Mixer: 1. The boys and the girls start out on opposite sides of the dance floor. 2. One guy (usually Buck) makes the great leap to the other side of the dance floor. 3. With about 30 minutes left in the mixer, the boys and girls intermingle.

These rules applied to this mixer. Some of the highlights included: Mrs. Thurmond's dancing with Buck in what had to be one of the most entertaining moments in MBA history; 7th graders passing out be-

cause of the ridiculous strobe lights, and the crowd surfing. This mixer was fun, but it could have been better. Some of my suggestions for later mixers would include: no mixing the 7th grade with the 8th grade (Not that I don't like the 7th graders, but it makes things too crowded); to illuminate the dance floor a little more. As Fraiser Crane puts it, the room should be "dark enough to hide the flaws, but bright enough so they don't think you're hiding something," and to expand the mixer to three hours, so stage three is reached with a respectable amount of time left. We can only look forward to the next mixer, where hopefully some of these suggestions will be implemented.

Trickster Tales

by: Andrew Quinn

What was the hooping and hollering coming from the theater during sixth period on January 7? It was the audience laughing at the long-awaited production of the Trickster Tales by Dr. Fuller's eighth grade theater class. Prior to the performance, Dr. Fuller instructed the audience about trickster tales and how, for a time, they fell out of favor with audiences because of their low brow, bawdy, bathroom humor. (Not a problem for MBA audiences). The three plays, *The Lion in the Well*, *Anansi Plays Dead*, and *Crawling into*

an Elephant's Belly were well performed by talented eighth graders, David Was, Tate Jackson, Matt Reid, William Sisk, Evan, Hagemeyer, Andy Gray, and Michael Mayo.

The brilliantly colored masks used to portray the different animals in the plays were incredible! Created by Mr. Pederson's eighth grade art class, these masks really gave the characters life, though some of the actors claimed to be inhibited by their coarse inner-construction. The general shapes of the masks were formed with chicken wire, then molded so that a head would fit in them. Finally they were painted with vivid primary colors. (These masks are currently on display in the cases outside Frist Hall).



Anansi is Dead - Oh-ting-wa

In the first tale, *The Lion in the Well* clever Brer Rabbit tricks Brer Lion into falling into the well, thereby saving himself from being eaten. Tate Jackson in his pointed eared mask, complete with a cigar, strutted in his role as the cocky



William Sisk in
Anansi Plays Dead

Brer Rabbit. The mutilated pig and goose noises generated by William Sisk and Michael Mayo, however, were the most memorable antics of this performance.

I n *Anansi Plays Dead* Anansi the spider and his wife trick the other animals into thinking Anansi is dead, luring the animals into their home to express

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Top Ten Best Video Games of All Time

by: Col. Deke Shearon

10. Tecmo Super Bowl (Nintendo) - Okay, this game is over five years old, but I still play it. It is unquestionably the best party game of all time. Sure, the graphics do leave something to be desired, and the statistics are five years old (Bo Jackson is unbeatable in excellent condition), but this game still remains the best multiplayer game of all time to this very day. The cheesy music, the sack and touchdown animations, the whole game is just classic.

9. Mike Tyson's Punch Out (Nintendo) - Sure, the ear-biting legend is suspended, and probably won't fight legally again for a long time (except at Wrestlemania, but that's a different story), but the game remains awesome. Whenever a game has characters like "Bald Bull" and "The Sandman," you know it has to be awesome. I remember when Mike Tyson (being the shrewd businessman that he is) told the game programmers to make his character near-unbeatable, so they made it so that one punch from Iron Mike would instantly knock your character into oblivion. He even had gold teeth.

8. NBA Jam (Just about every system) - Now, just about everybody has played this game at one time or another. I remember the best part of the game was the commentary, done, of course, by Marv Albert (see above for the writer's views on biting). Examples of this work are "Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh...BOOM-SHAKA-LAKA" and "He's on FIRE!" Any game that has dunks from the three point line and heads bigger than the players has to be good.

7. Contra (Nintendo) - When the entire last stage of a game takes place inside a giant's body, I really don't care what the rest of the game is about. The boss of the entire game is simply a giant heart, ready for destruction by your characters guns. You run around in blue pants and a red shirt and shoot guys with a nice arsenal of firearms. For anyone with a Nintendo, this game is a must-have.

CONGRATS!!

to Vahid Azamtarrhian and
Allen Callison for placing in
the Cheekwood Art Show

and
to the eighth grade
junior honor society
members:

Brandon Booth	Cooper Moore
Clay Brown	James Pace
Allen Callison	Nick Reid
Brian Charnock	Walt Sharpton
Jonathan Estes	Evan Shelby
Tate Jackson	Jamie Sperring
Hutch Martin	Chris Vutsinas
Ryan Mirian	David Was

6. Rampage (Nintendo) - Okay, this game might very well have the simplest instructions of all time. You are either a giant gorilla, or a giant lizard, and you go around to various cities and knock down buildings, eating people along the way. How much easier can you get?

5. John Madden Football (Sega Genesis) - Don't get me wrong here, I'm not talking about the fancy-dancy prettyboy games for the Playstation. I am talking about the original John Madden Football for the Sega Genesis (BOOM! He's gonna feel that one tomorrow!). When a game lets you jump in the path of an ambulance carrying an injured player off of the field, you know it is a must-have.

4. Duck Hunt (Nintendo) - So, it was the first game to use a light gun. Shooting small, defenseless animals always appeals to the writer of this article, especially when it does not involve leaving the cozy confines of his room. The look on that dog's face when a kill is made is enough to make the heart of any 5-28 year old male living in the South light up with joy.

3. Mortal Kombat (Just about every system) - Ahhhhhhh, the *Citizen Kane* of video games. Okay, it's not just about the blood factor. Although ripping out the spine or the still-beating heart of a human being appeals to just about everyone in today's world. But, just like the movie *Showgirls*, this game is revolutionary and introduces a new way of thinking. Or, not.

2. WWF Royal Rumble (Super Nintendo) - No, this game is not on this super-exclusive list just because of the writer's liking for professional wrestling; this game is genuinely a good game. Any game that lets you hit people with a steel chair using characters like "The Heartbreak Kid" Shawn Michaels, "Hitman" Bret Hart, or The Undertaker has to be cool.

1. Super Mario Brothers (Nintendo) - Not to seem cheesy just because this was the first really big game that ever came out, but this game really was revolutionary. It had the best music (that unforgettable theme song, which, proven in a poll, is more recognizable to children than "Hail to the Chief"), those graphics, and of course, GOOMBAS (!). Hey, the movie (with Bob Hoskins and John "No Thanks Wong Foo" Leguizamo) was even better than most. (just a tiny bit of sarcasm).

Wrestling

by: Giles Evans

Look! It's a champion! It's a freshman wrestler! It's an 8Th Grader!!! Yep, that's right, everybody, due to the incredible talent level on our HVAC CHAMPIONSHIP team, select members of our team are wrestling for the freshmen and practicing with the varsity! Starters were Giles Evans, Heath Edwards, and the all-powerful, 2x HVAC champ, Patrick Simpson! Varsity practices are from 3:30 until 6:30. That's three hours of constant, total exertion! (Not an easy task!) But our hard work paid off. Giles Evans received 3rd at the Ryan invitational and 4th in the region tournament with a 4-5 record. Heath Edwards earned 3rd at the Ryan invitational with a 10-5 record. Brett Begley had a 1-5 record, Will Denbo had an 0-6 record, and Russel McWhirter had an 0-2 record. Andrew Nevin had a 2-2 record, and Gavin Richey had an 0-1 record. Gavin never wrestled for our team, but he took forfeits and wrestling for needy team at the MBA Duals. Hope to see a good 7th grade turnout next year!

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FEATURES

The Top Five Best Dressed Teachers

by: Col. Deke Shearon

1. Mr. Caudill- Mr. Caudill deserves this honor simply because he has not (to my knowledge) repeated clothing once throughout the year. He has a selection of at least 5 pairs of shoes, 20 shirts, and 60 ties. He is not only the best dressed teacher, but he also takes the most care in his looks. He is always clean-shaven, and his hair is neatly trimmed (on campus, which is a bonus that an inside source tells me is part of the football coaches' contracts). Mr. Caudill truly is the best dressed teacher at MBA.

2. Mrs. Franks- Sure, teachers of the fairer sex have an unarguable advantage in this category, with naturally better fashion sense than men, but Mrs. Franks deserves it. She, like Mr. Caudill, has not repeated clothing this year, and seemingly has an outfit for every imaginable holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.).

3. Mr. Spiegl- Mr. Spiegl deserves his place on this list simply because no one knows where he gets the stuff that

Mr. Spiegl's dress is so weird, that it's cool.

he wears (his answer when asked: "Somewhere in Indiana"). Plaid blazers, plaid pants, and pink t-shirts are but some of the things he has been spotted wearing. The epitome of this odd yet cool fashion sense is his ties. His tie collection ranges from Mr. Potato Head, to Gumby, to Jerry Garcia, to one that just looks like a sock. Mr. Spiegl's dress is so weird, that it's cool.

4. Mr. Corzine- Mr. Corzine is the first teacher on this list who actually dresses as the stereotypical teacher



Mr. Spiegl - What eight years can do to a man

dresses. He has a collection of about 5 blazers, which alternate daily. He is the only person I know whose entire wardrobe consists of only three colors: brown, white, and navy blue. Mr. Corzine's dress probably echoes that of

the average MBA student more so than any other on this list.

5. Dr. Barrow- Sure, bow ties went out with Pee-Wee Herman, and you can-

not look good in a sweater vest unless your last name is Rogers, but Dr. Barrow pulls it off quite nicely. When you first see Dr. Barrow, you think, "Man, either this guy is really smart, or he wants us to think that he is." The jury is still out on the answer to that age-old question, but Dr. Barrow's plaid blazers, sweater vests, and large collection of bow ties (unlike one other particular teacher at MBA, whose bow tie collection can be counted on one hand), emphasize the "I'm so intelligent you should be intimidated by me" motif.



Mr. Caudill - The Best Dressed Teacher at MBA

The Trickster Tales: The Eighth Grade Play

(Continued from page 1)

sympathy, then killing the animals for food. Michael Pass, as Anansi's wife, got most of the laughs in this one with his doleful mourning song and his vicious pounding of the other animals with a plastic inflated bat. Also notable was Anansi's (William Sisk's) fake, but frequent and outrageous flatulence (produced behind the scenes by the talented Matt Reid) which brought the crowd to a gleeful roar of hysterics.

Anansi also appeared in *Crawling into and Elephant's Belly* and here once again Anansi is struggling for survival. To get food, he crawls into an elephant's belly. His friend Yawari the anteater finds out about this promising possibility and tries it, too, but he stays too long and gets caught by the king. The visual effect of the characters' crawling into the elephant's body via the "rear" entrance was very funny as was Yawari's mask.

"The players improved many of the actions on the day of the play, especially Michael Pass's exaggerated and excessive beatings of the animals in *Anansi Plays Dead*," said Andy Gray, who played Brer Lion, Compe Bull Cattle, and an elephant/elephant keeper in the three plays.

All three of these short plays were big hits with the audience. As the audience learned, trickster tales are not just for the young. After the performance, many agreed that the entire school should have seen these.

ENTERTAINMENT

William's Movies

by: William Sisk

Titanic:

It's BIG, it's GIANT, it's HUGE. That can only mean one thing, **TITANIC**. Although the ship sinks in the movie (sorry if you haven't seen it yet), it is sailing high above the water at the box office. In the sixth week, the movie is still number one and is on the verge of beating the all-time box office leader, *Star Wars*. It is still at number one and is still floating quickly, and is sinking yet (Ed. Note—What was that, William?) It had the largest budget for a movie ever, beating *Waterworld* by about thirty million dollars at two-hundred million dollars to make. The movie is more of a love story than an action movie. Leonardo DiCaprio (Jack) stars as the young boy who saves the life of the charming young actress, Kate Winslet (Rose). They fall passionately in love and struggle to survive the sinking ship. This is a very long movie, around three and a half hours, but it is worth it. There are great special effects, and they also pulled out a pretty good story. This movie is definitely worth seeing if you have not seen it already.

A-

Scream 2:

Ahhhhh, the sequel to *Scream* by Wes Craven. "They are going to ruin a great movie by releasing a sequel." That is what you were probably saying before the movie, or at least I was. *Scream 2* is basically the same plot as the first one in that there is a mad serial killer(s) on the loose, and they are killing a number of teens. The surviving kids (Sidney and Randy) are back and again are trying to survive. This is not as funny as the first movie, but it is scarier which makes up for the missed laughs. This movie is almost as good as the original, but not quite. Even so, *Scream 2* is a great movie, better than *Titanic* in fact, and is definitely worth seeing.

A

Tomorrow Never Dies:

Brosnan, Hatchet, and Danish!!!! *Tomorrow Never Dies*, another Bond film, is better than most. Pierce Brosnan plays an excellent Bond, in a great movie. It is about a

crazed television, radio, and newspaper executive who wants to be the most famous person on Earth by getting tomorrow's news, today. He is played by Jonathan Pryce, a very talented actor, who portrays his character very well. Bond once again has to help save the world, but he has a little help this time with a "woman friend." *Tomorrow Never Dies* is one of the best Bond films ever and is worth seeing.

A-

As Good As It Gets:

As Good As It Gets, starring Jack Nicholson, Cuba Gooding Jr., Helen Hunt, and Greg Kinnear does not live up to its title. Jack Nicholson plays a very particular and superstitious neighbor and friend of Kinnear's. He falls deeply in love with his only waitress (Helen Hunt) he has used for the last however many years (Ed. Note—Huh?). Kinnear plays a gay artist who also falls for Helen Hunt (Ed. Note—Huh?). Cuba is Kinnear's associate and is a very good actor, but was better in his Jerry Maguire football role. The movie has some laughs, but it drags on way too long. *As Good As It Gets* is doing well at the box-office even though it is not that good (Ed. Note—William, are you just going to ignore that it won the Golden Globe for best comedy and Multiple Peoples Choice Awards?). If you have some extra cash I would recommend renting it when it comes out.

B-

Sisk's Top Songs

by: William Sisk and Alex Lefferts

These songs list the opinions of William Sisk and not of any other *Top Of The Hill* staff member.

1. *Traffic*—Stereophonics—"Is, anyone... going... Anywhere? Everyones... got to be... somewhere." This is a song from a new band that not a lot of people have heard of, but it is a great song. This song really makes you think about your future. I think it is the number one song of the year.

2. *I'll Be Missing You*—Puff Daddy featuring: Faith Evans and 112 - This song made Puff Daddy a myriad of "Benjamins." (another song by Puff Daddy, about achieving 100 dollar bills and becoming rich) This was Puff Daddy's breakout hit, saying one final goodbye to his dear friend Christopher Wallace aka Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls. Some think he is taking advantage of this terrible tragedy others disagree.

3. *Bitter Sweet Symphony*—The Verve—"It's a Bitter Sweet... Symphony....that's life." This song is new song from the Verve, and it has one of the best videos (and commercials) of the year. It is about being one thing from one day to the next.

4. *Clumsy*—Our Lady Peace - This song is supposedly talking about a relationship not working out and having to end. Clumsy describes how one of the couple has not been too careful about the relationship and it is time for it to end. (Ed. Note—William, what station do you listen to?)

5. *Walking on the Sun*—Smash Mouth—"Might as well be walking on the sun." This new song from Smash Mouth is pretty cool.

6. *Brick*—Ben Folds Five—"She's a brick and I'm drowning slowly." Let's not talk about this song anymore.

7. *Everything To Everyone*—Everclear—"You try to be everything to everyone." This is Everclear's newest hit, and it is a great song. It is about trying to be something for everyone and trying to find your true self even if it is hard.

8. *Semi-Charmed Life*—Third Eye Blind—"And I want...something else... to get me through this, semi-charmed kinda life, baby, baby." This song is about a man's life not being lived to its fullest potential.

9. *The Impression*—Mighty Mighty Boss Tones—"Have you ever, ever had to knock on wood, cause I'm sure it isn't good, that the impression that I get." This is a great hit for the Mighty Mighty Boss Tones topping most of the charts on radio stations distributed throughout the country.

10. *Mouth*—Bush—"Nothing hurts... like...your mouth, your mouth." This song by Bush is a remake of a classic song. It is on *The American Werewolf in Paris* soundtrack, and it is about when the two kids kiss. (Ed. Note—What was this a remake of, William?)

SPORTS

Microbe Wrestling Makes History

by: Jay and Richard Howell

The extremely successful Microbe wrestling team made history this year. It won the HVAC tournament and one team member wrestled a girl for the first time. The team came home with an HVAC trophy and 5 HVAC champions to show for it. The 5 champions were Walt Sharpton, Patrick Simpson, Andrew Nevin, Will Denbo, and Robbie

Guerra, all the hype was still there.

At the HVAC tournament, MBA won handily over all the teams, even Ensworth. All the wrestlers placed at least 4th place. It was a great victory for the team.

"It was nice getting first and beating Ensworth (at the HVAC tournament)," said Heath Edwards, starter at 107 pounds and second place finisher in the HVAC Tournament.

"It felt really good because Ensworth has won the past few years and they always brag about it in ninth grade. Now we can brag. We did a good job this year. Some seventh graders stepped up and helped us along," said Patrick Simpson, the only undefeated person on the team.

"We finally beat Ensworth," said Andrew Nevin, also named "Anaconda" for the way he locks up on people.

The starting lineup was one of the

best in tears, starting with Sharpton at 75, Herron at 82, Simpson at 88, Evans at 95, Huffman, Stringfellow, and Bartholomew at 100, Edwards at 107, Meadors at 112, Lefferts and Johnson at 120, Nevin at 127, Gabbert at 135, Begley at 140, Denbo at 160, Guerra at 175, and Pounds at heavyweight.



*The First Place HVAC Wrestling Champs:
(from left) Walt Sharpton, Patrick Simpson,
Andrew Nevin, Will Denbo, and Robbie Guerra*

Guerra. They finished with an 11-1-1 record, giving coach Peterson his first championship trophy in his coaching career.

With wins over Harding, BGA, BA, FMS, Grassland, BMS, FRA, CPA, Ellis, and the Parochial Schools, they had a productive season. Their only loss was against Page Middle School. In the biggest match of the year, MBA tied Ensworth 40-40, only to ripen a rivalry in the HVAC tournament.

The match versus the girl took place at Harding. Frank Herron was tagged with the tedious task. Although the match only lasted a minute, with Frank pinning her eas-

MBA Eighth Grade Basketball: Starting to Roll

by: David Was

The MBA 8th grade basketball team has, after getting off to a rocky start, finally gotten into a rhythm this year. The team's record is currently 4-4, as they get into the heart of their schedule. In the opening game of the season, MBA played at Freedom Middle and lost a sluggish one, 45-31. After a long Christmas break, they then went to FRA and unfortunately lost, 25-20. MBA would eventually have things go their way, as they returned home to face BGA, and won a low scoring affair, 25-16. In the first conference game, however, they lost a disappointing game versus BMS, 40-24. Then, MBA played Freedom in a rematch. They won 48-44, and got their first conference win. MBA then creamed Lipscomb by twenty points and lost a disappointing game at Brentwood Academy. Recently, MBA defeated Ensworth, 33-28. Under the direction of head coach Thomas Wims, this year's team consists of Nick Reid, Akeem Turner, Tate Jackson, Clark Rollins, Warner Jones, David Was, Brandon Booth, Will Brackin, Robbie Guerra, Jess Andrews, Allen Callison, and managers Brian Breedlove and Ford Manning.

Announcing: The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest

(for the 7th and 8th grades)

Categories: Poetry and Prose (short stories)

Prizes: 1st place - \$50

2nd place - \$35

3rd place - \$10

Please turn in all entries, a hard copy and a disk to Mrs. Bourland by March 27, 1998

MORE FEATURES

Intramurals: To Play or Not to Play Intramurals needs improvement

By: Hamilton Berry

Wrestling and swimming don't really appeal to me, so I am participating in intramural basketball. So far, I have many complaints that some people share. First, intramurals are too short. I am a busy person, which is one reason I chose intramurals, but one reason I came to MBA was to enjoy competitive sports. Because intramurals is so short (40 min.), by the time everything is organized, students play actual sports for 15-30 minutes. Many times I don't even break a sweat; the only real arm and leg movements are me hustling to arrive on time.

Also, the intramural program is inconsistent in many ways. Many times, even if it's just the slightest bit rainy, we get sent to study hall. Also, if some other event comes up, no matter how short it may be, we get put last on the list. Again we usually are sent to study hall for 40 minutes. As you might have figured out, intramurals is only three days a week, and usually one or two of those days, intramurals gets canceled. For example, in about two and a half weeks of football, my team played a whopping three (1 "did not count") games.

Finally, I don't understand why games are not more closely supervised. During games, dishonesty can win victories because no one watches the competition. More people are needed if many games are to be played; teams should be able to compete fiercely without arguing every play.

I understand that intramurals are hard to run with so many kids, and that

intramurals are getting somewhat more exciting, but our attitudes will improve if we can play sports on every assigned day, have longer time to play, and be assured that games will be fair. If this happens, I'll stay with the program instead of diving, swimming, or body slamming.

Intramurals are fine as they are

by: Evan Shelby

Right now, intramurals is good. No changes need to be made. Three days a week is perfect. Who would want to go to intramurals five days a week? That would be wretched! Why would anyone want to stay at intramurals past 3:45? Most people who do intramurals do it so they do not have to do another sport! Intramurals is fine how it is. Do not change this sport.

Hamilton Berry's article was written during the fall season of intermurals.

Great measures have been taken to improve the intramural program. As an 8th grader, who competed in one intramural season last year, and one this year, I can say that improvements have been made. Last year's intramural program consisted of unrelated games, in which few of the people participated with any enthusiasm. The current program features competitive teams, tournaments, and prizes for the winners.

It is interesting to see that different people come to intramurals with different expectations. Some come into intermurals thinking that it will be physical and competitive, while others see it as a way to get home before 4 o'clock.

The Amazingly Dangerous Life of Mr. Lundstrom

by: Brian Christie

Jeff Paul Lundstrom was born April 16, 1972 in Wilmington, Delaware. He likes to watch *Party of Five* and listens to everyone from the Beastie Boys to Beck.

He believes the seven dwarves are annoying and enjoys putting mayonnaise on his French fries. He went to MBA from 7th to 12th grade and now teaches 7th grade computer and Lacrosse. Mr. Lundstrom loves hockey, the Philadelphia Flyers, and John LeClaire. He



Mr. Lundstrom, "Hey you!"

rolls his toilet paper from the top, and, strangely, squeezes his tooth paste from the top. Speaking of tooth paste, he enjoys using Crest. Mr. Lundstrom's favorite book is *The Catcher in the Rye*, by JD Salinger, while his favorite restaurant is Wendy's. His dream vacation spot is the Scottish Highlands, and his favorite movies are *Hoosiers* and *Raising Arizona*. If he were stranded on a desert island with a beautiful woman and he could only bring three things, he would bring a TV, a remote control, and a generator. On the subject of typing, when asked his speed, he answers only with "fast enough."